GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2669
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
SOIL EROSION
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that erosion of embankments caused by rivers viz. Ganges, Phular, Mahananda, Tangan, Nagar, and Teesta is a regular phenomena in West Bengal, particularly in Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and DakshinDinajpur districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take initiatives to survey such districts, jointly with State Government and execute the plan to check erosion before coming monsoon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Erosion caused by the Ganga and other rivers in West bengal is a natural and continuous phenomena. The intensity varies with location from year to year. Government of West Bengal has indicated in their draft Annual Plan Document for the year 2000-01 that the districts of Malda and Murshidabad situated on either bank of Ganga-Padma System are severely affected by erosion resulting in loss of land and property etc.

(c)&(d) The Central Government has already takeninitiative and a Central Team including State officials has already identified the critical reaches affected by the erosion due to river Ganga and a proposal for Central Assistance has been processed which includes a provision of Rs.30 crore as Central Assistance to West Bengal and Rs.17.5 crore to Farakka Barrage Project Authority for taking up anti erosion works in the State. In addition, Government of West Bengal has already undertaken 39 schemes to check erosion.